

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A powdered thickener preparation produced by forming a solution, suspension or melt of a mixture comprising
- a) at least one urethane group-containing, water-soluble or water-dispersible thickener,
- b) at least one substance solid at room temperature
- c) optionally a non-ionic, aromatic or aliphatic emulsifier and
- d) optionally other auxiliary substances
- and subsequently converting the products obtained into powder form by drying or grinding.
2. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) is a water-insoluble substance with an average particle size of $< 20 \mu\text{m}$.
3. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises a water-soluble substance.
4. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises pyrogenic silica.
5. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate or mixtures thereof.
6. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises barium sulfate, titanium dioxide or talcum.
7. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises cellulose, sugar or a water-soluble carbohydrate.
8. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises a water-soluble (co)polymer salt of acrylic, methacrylic or aspartic acid.
9. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises urea.
10. A process for adjusting the rheological properties of aqueous systems by adding the thickener preparation of claim 1 to the aqueous system.
11. A composition of matter containing the thickener preparation of claim 1.

12. The composition of matter of claim 11, wherein the composition is an aqueous automotive and industrial lacquer, a stucco- or other paint, a printing ink or a textile dye, a pigment printing paste, an aqueous pharmaceutical and cosmetic formulation, a plant protection
5 formulation, a filler or a pigment dispersion, a preparation of a detergent, adhesive, wax or polish or a preparation for petroleum extraction.

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